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IBM Unveils RT PC For High-End Uses

By Scott Mace
InfoWorld Staff

NEW YORK — IBM last week announced its long-awaited reduced instruction set computer (RISC), a high-end machine designed to handle technical tasks — such as computer-aided design of automobiles — previously done only by larger computers.

Various models of the RT (RISC Technology) Personal Computer, scheduled for March delivery, will cost between \$11,700 and \$19,510, according to IBM. IBM did not, however, announce its PC Convertible portable machine, contrary to the predictions of many analysts.

With a physical appearance virtually identical to the PC AT, the basic RT PC desktop model, the 6151 Model 10, includes 1-megabyte of random-access memory that can be expanded to 3 megabytes. It is equipped with a 40-megabyte hard disk drive, said Bill Rich, assistant group executive of marketing with IBM's Information Systems Group, in Rye Brook, New York.

At the heart of the machine is a proprietary, IBM-designed 32-bit microprocessor using RISC technology invented by IBM. The technology, which uses a simplified yet powerful processor to improve the computer's performance, was previously available only in an IBM 801 minicomputer, Rich said.

The RT also contains another technological advance: an IBM-developed 40-bit

virtual memory management chip, capable of using up to a trillion bytes of virtual memory. Virtual memory technology enables a computer to use portions of a disk drive to simulate extra memory during program execution, permitting it to run programs much larger than its physical memory would allow.

The RT PC uses a multitasking, multi-

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Bill Rich of IBM's Information Systems Group said the company's new RT PC uses a simplified yet powerful processor to improve the computer's performance.

Windows Gains Support From Software Developers

By Jim Forbes
InfoWorld Staff

BELLEVUE, WA — Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating environment continues to draw support from developers, with numerous additional vendors expected to announce compatible products within six months.

Among the developers who have announced support are Living Videotext Inc., Computer Associates International Inc., Micrografix Inc., and Softstyle Inc. Analysts say Lotus Development Corp., Ashton-Tate, and Microverm Inc. will also move to support Windows.

Living Videotext will develop a new product, code-named Spanky, for Microsoft's Windows environment, said Dave Winer, president of the Mountain View, California, firm. Winer said his new product will be an extension of the company's existing Thinklink outline processor and will include expanded word processing and outlining capabilities. No release date has been set.

Superproject and Supercalc developer Computer Associates of San Jose, California, said future offerings will mesh with the Microsoft environment. "Our new products will support Windows," said Michael Croso, vice president of marketing for the firm. Croso said his company would formally announce support for Windows soon.

Micrografix, a Richardson, Texas, maker of graphics software for the IBM PC, said it has signed a Windows-related marketing and development agreement with Micro-

soft. The firm's Draw, a \$199 Windows-compatible graphics package, will be released in February and will allow users to incorporate 1-2-3 and Symphony graphs into Draw files. "We believe that Windows represents the future of all software," said Ralph Chuchul, director of marketing for Micrografix.

Last summer, Micrografix released In-A-Vision, a Windows-based computer-aided drawing package that costs \$495. The company is the first independent software vendor to market a Windows-based package.

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Vertical Software Expected for Laptop

By Jim Forbes
InfoWorld Staff

Vertical software development should get a push from the expected announcement of a portable computer from IBM Corp., although availability of the machine is unlikely to accelerate development of general-purpose packages, according to developers and analysts.

"The release of the machine could spur development of vertical applications for specific industry segments," said Michael Croso, vice president of marketing for Computer Associates International Inc., in San Jose, California. Computer Associates makes the Supercalc spreadsheet program and the Superproject project management

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Project Software Demand Growing

By Hank Bannister
InfoWorld Staff

At Chase Manhattan Bank, project management software helps the data processing department install new IBM 3380 storage units. On the opposite coast, computer managers for the city of Seattle use the same program to help schedule software conversions that will let the city switch to newer mainframes.

All over the country, other corporate data processing and information managers have discovered the same thing: Microcomputer-based project management software is more than a tool for contractors and consultants. As a result of the ensuing demand, publishers are scrambling to adapt their product lines to add features and

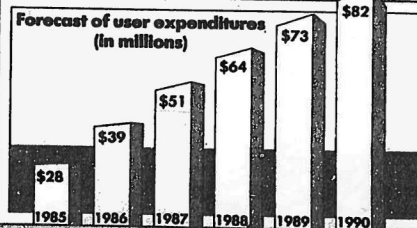
services tailored to the needs of executives and managers controlling their company's computers.

At Chase Manhattan, in New York, mainframe disk drive installation is smoothed by APT Workbench 2.1, an

\$1,150 IBM PC-based product from Advanced Business Technology Corp., also in New York. The software reduces the time needed to manually revise changing schedules or the time needed to work on

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MICRO-BASED PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE



Purchases of microcomputer-based project management software by data processing departments are expected to help boost sales significantly by 1990.

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F01013157-1 C
JAN BELOS
SERIALS DEPARTMENT
300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106

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